

## When Mother Nature Says "No"

(From Farm Bureau News)

The following taken from an article by John Fields in the Agricultural Review relative to raising corn in Kansas is applicable to this section and should prove of interest:

The average acre-value of kafir during 18 years was 26 per cent greater than the average acre-value of corn. Only four times did corn bring more money than kafir and the difference was never so much as a dollar an acre. In the best corn year of all—1915—the difference was only 4 cents in favor of corn. So you see that the odds in favor of what happened to your corn in 1917 and 1918 are 14 to 4. But you keep on bucking that sort of sure-thing game in a state where such comparatively harmless and inexpensive pastimes as shooting craps and playing poker are very properly tabooed. You persist in wasting the profits which you make from other crops in as vain attempts to maintain a place in the cornbelt as the kafir and his huns made to get a "place in the sun."

There seems to be a wide difference of opinions as to the cost of crop production. Agreement as to the cost of growing an acre of corn is impossible to obtain. Surely \$12.50 an acre is low enough for the man who spends a year growing 80 acres of corn for \$1,000 can't be said to be getting very far very rapidly. Your own reports show that the average acre-value of corn for the last 10 years was \$9.98. You planted 63,700,085 acres to corn during those 10 years and got from the crop about 180 million dollars less than the cost of production. On the basis of the report of the United States Bureau of Crop Estimates, your loss on the corn crop during that period was 195 million dollars, and only two years in the 10 did corn make more than \$12.50 an acre. Your corn crop was actually profitable only in 1915, when you had the lowest acreage and got an average return of only \$16.21.

During these same 10 years, the average acre-value of your kafir crops was \$5.07 greater than of corn. If corn had brought in as much money as kafir did to the acre, Kansas farmers would be about 350 million dollars better off than they are.

It is because of interest in my own state that I am speaking to you thus frankly. While unfortunately the influence of your political example fails to reach us, we do trail after you agriculturally to a large extent. We persist in our attempts to make corn grow on the sun-scorched hilltops, with results similar to yours. But we are making some progress toward reform. Our loss on the corn crops of the last 10 years has not been as large as yours because we did not plant as much as you did. We have wasted only about 100 million dollars since 1909 in trying to hook Oklahoma onto the cornbelt, with Kansas as the connecting link. And we have been whit-

ening down the corn acreage, from about 6 million in 1909 to about 3½ million in 1918, thus reducing our losses. But we have yet a long way to go before we will cease entirely from emulating your example. It is my hope that you will give us an example which will be profitable for us to follow, and will join with Oklahoma and Texas in developing a proper degree of appreciation and understanding of the many advantages which the kafirbelt has over the cornbelt.

The production of corn depends fully as much on a favorable sky as on fertile soils, good seed, and good cultural methods. The influence of methods, soils, and seed upon the production of corn has been carefully and fully studied by agricultural investigators. But no one has thoroughly studied the sky in its relation to the production of corn. It is a dull observer indeed who has not seen the extent of this one factor which cannot be controlled. And the fact developed at the Nebraska experiment station that a single corn plant may use 10 pounds of water during 24 hot, windy hours and still make no corn should convey a few impressions to those who do not observe. Never while any of us who are here today are concerned as to the outcome will any method of selection of seed, preparation of the soil, and cultivation of the crop cause corn to pollinize when the temperature is over 100 degrees and the wind is blowing faster than 15 miles an hour. Irrigation will not insure a crop of corn under these conditions, which exist over a large portion of the Southern Plains nearly every summer.

After studying the problem for nearly 25 years, I know that when the farmer of the Southern Plains virtually discards corn, and the people of these states become proud to have this area designated as the nation's great kafirbelt, farming here will be a safe business, made so by the proper use of the kafir crops and the forage sorghums.

### LAUNDRY FOR BANK NOTES

It may not be generally known that the United States treasury department saves a large amount of paper, ink and labor annually, by sending dirty bank bills to the wash. It seems a pity that this money laundry is not available to the public at large, for by the aid of machinery there in use, the dirtiest bill, so soiled as to be almost unrecognizable, can be made spick and span in just two and a half minutes.

The notes are placed on endless bands which pass in and out between a series of heavy copper rollers. These rollers revolve in a special kind of soap, and as the bills pass backward and forward they are washed and rubbed clean. They are then passed between rollers running in clean water, and thus thoroughly rinsed, after which they go thru heated rollers which dry and iron them, leaving them almost as crisp and clean as when first printed.

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### LICE AND MITES

One of the drawbacks in poultry raising is the prevalence of lice or mites of one kind or another. One has to be on the lookout for them at all times and especially during the summer season. Some say they cannot be controlled but that is a mistake but it does take eternal vigilance to keep entirely free of the pests.

First of all cleanliness is necessary. Keep all droppings, old straw or scratching material cleaned out. Remove all unnecessary boxes and boards. Then spray with some good disinfect-



"I'll take the cash—you take the girl." That's a queer proposition for a burglar to make his pal. He rescues the girl's fortune from two "shark" brokers, a crooked lawyer and a full grown burglar. It happens in the girl's home, and her father was gasping for help. Yet she never stirs, never makes a sound! The burglar beat it and took the loot. The reason is—???

Wallace Reid in "The Dub," that's the picture and it's a good one. Also showing one chapter of "The Man of Might" At the Lyceum, Monday, March 10th.

ant and repeat the spraying from time to time. For the mites that hide during the day on the underside of the roosts, in cracks and crevices a good scalding will help rid the house and this followed by the spraying is effectual. For body lice a dusting with one of the commercial lice powders will do the job or go to your drug store and get a pound or two of sodium fluoride and dust well with that. For head lice a very small amount of a soft grease well rubbed in will clear them out, care must be taken not to get too much on.

Scaly leg, and unsightly condition of the shanks of fowls is caused by a microscopic insect that lives under the scales and can be killed and a cure effected by applying a mixture of some soft grease or heavy oil, a little kerosene and some sulphur all mixed together and well rubbed in. If one will wash the shanks with hot soapy water first then apply the remedy quicker results will be obtained.

Lewis C. Taylor, Extension Poultry Husbandman, State College, N. Mex.

### WANTED HIS FRONT DOOR PAINTED BY ARTIST

The great artist Whistler had a poodle dog of which he was inordinately fond. The dog contracted an affection of the throat, and the artist had the audacity to send for the great throat specialist, Sir Morrell Mackenzie.

Sir Morrell, when he saw that he had been called in to treat a dog didn't like it much, but he said nothing. He treated the animal, pocketed a large fee and went away.

The next day he sent post haste for Whistler, and the latter, thinking he had been called on some matter connected with his beloved pet, dropped his work and rushed to Mackenzie.

On his arrival Sir Morrell said

gravely:

"How do you do, Mr. Whistler? I wanted to see you about having my front door painted."

### THE KNOCK PROVED TO BE A BOOST

"You can knock a thing in such a way as to boost it," said Attorney General Gregory in an address in Washington. "Injudicious orators often make this mistake. Perhaps you've heard of the revivalist who shouted: 'I tell you, friends, hell contains

nothing but chorus girls, cocktails and roulette wheels!'"

"Thereupon a young man in a back seat yelled: 'Oh, death! where is thy string?'"

### FENCE POST

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Clara Kimball Young in "The Road Through the Dark" Have you ever had a dark road to travel? From the soft amber of love and happiness she is abruptly thrust out into a long dark road from which there is no turning. On and on she stumbles, groping, fear-

ing, but never complaining. See a light. Nearer and nearer comes. But how long before it comes? Come and see this story in the early period of the war. Kinograph showing World's news and a two reel comedy. Lyceum, Tuesday, March 11th.